

Art Unit: \*\*\*

1. A method for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a continuous web-shaped recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least  
45 one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone, comprising the steps of:

printing the optical information onto the recording carrier using optical readable toner or printing the magnetic information being printed onto the recording carrier  
50 using magnetic ink character recognition toner; and testing by using at least one of a magnetic test equipment for inspection and an optical image test equipment for inspection and wherein both the magnetic test equipment and the optical image test equipment are located  
55 in the printing line and wherein at least one of the test equipments is used after a print stop has been initiated.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the testings is performed during a print stop.

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the testing  
60 step is controlled by a controller which initiates print stops.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein bar codes printed on the recording carrier are read by bar code equipment.

5. The method according to claim 4 wherein signals  
65 generated by at least one of the magnetic test equipment, the bar code read equipment, and the optical image test equipment are used for document tracking.

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Art Unit: \*\*\*

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein the recording carrier is transported to a predetermined position with respect to at least one of the magnetic and optical image test equipments before the inspection step is initiated.

7. The method according to claim 6 wherein the predetermined position with respect to at least one of the magnetic and optical image test equipments is a top-of-page position. 5

8. The method according to claim 1 including the step of providing the magnetic test equipment and the optical image test equipment in a same box which houses a printing station for at least one of the magnetic information and the optical information. 10

9. The method according to claim 1 including the step of providing the magnetic test equipment and the optical image test equipment in a stand-alone box separate from a housing containing a printer for at least one of the magnetic information and the optical information. 15

Art Unit: \*\*\*

**10. A printing line, comprising**

- a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a continuous web-shape recording carrier, the information being provided as a data stream from an electronic data source, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone; 20
- an optical image test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to inspect print quality or to recognize printed contents of a document; 25
- a magnetic test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to detect magnetic information printed on the recording carrier; 30
- the test equipments are located at an output path of the printing device; and
- the optical image test equipment and the magnetic test equipment being located in a box with the printing device. 35

Art Unit: \*\*\*

**11. A printing line, comprising:**

- a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a continuous web-shape recording carrier, the information being provided as a data stream from an electronic data source, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone; 40
- an optical image test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to inspect print quality or to recognize printed contents of a document; 45
- a magnetic test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to detect magnetic information printed on the recording carrier;
- the test equipments are located at an output path of the printing device; and 50
- the optical image test equipment and the magnetic test equipment being located in a stand-alone box separate from the printing device.

**12. A printing line, comprising**

- a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a continuous web-shape recording carrier, the information being provided as a data stream from an electronic data source, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone; 5 6
- an optical image test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to inspect print quality or to recognize printed contents of a document;
- a magnetic test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to detect magnetic information printed on the recording carrier; 6

Art Unit: \*\*\*

the test equipments are located at an output path of the printing device; and

first and second printing devices being provided and the optical image test equipment and the magnetic test equipment being located in a stand-alone box after the second printing device.

13. A method for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a continuous web-shaped recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recoding zone, comprising the steps of:

printing the optical information onto the recording carrier using optical readable toner or printing the magnetic information being printed onto the recording carrier using magnetic ink character recognition toner; and

testing by using at least one of magnetic test equipment for inspection and an optical image test equipment for inspection and wherein both the magnetic test equipment and the optical image test equipment are located in the printing line, and wherein the testing step is controlled by a controller which initiates print stops.

14. The method according to claim 13 wherein the magnetic test equipment and the optical image the equipment are located in a same box as a printing station for at least one of the optical information and the magnetic information.

15. The method according to claim 13 wherein the magnetic test equipment and the optical image test equipment are located in a stand-alone box separate from a printing station for at least one of the optical information and the magnetic information.

16. The method according to claim 13 wherein at least one of the testings is performed during a print stop.

Art Unit: \*\*\*

**17. A printing line, comprising:**

- 5     **a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a continuous web-shape recording carrier, the information being provided as a data stream from an electronic data source, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone;**
- 10    **an optical image test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to inspect print quality or to recognize printed contents of a document;**
- 15    **a magnetic test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to detect magnetic information printed on the recording carrier;**
- 20    **a character recognition device connected to a document contents verification unit which is adapted to compare the information detected by the character recognition device with the information provided as a data stream from the electronic data source; and**
- 25    **the optical image test equipment and the magnetic test equipment being located in the stand-alone box separate from the printing device.**

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Art Unit: \*\*\*

- 55     18. A printing line, comprising:
- a printing device for printing at least one of optical and  
         magnetic information onto a continuous web-shape  
         recording carrier, the information being provided as a  
60       data stream from an electronic data source, the carrier  
         comprising at least one of an optical recording zone and  
         a magnetic recording zone;
- an optical image test equipment for inspection located in  
         line with the printing line and adapted to inspect print  
         quality or to recognize printed contents of a document;
- 65       a magnetic test equipment for inspection located in line  
         with the printing line and adapted to detect magnetic  
         information printed on the recording carrier;
- 
- a controller which controls a carrier transport unit to  
         transport the recording carrier upon receipt of a test  
         signal to a predetermined position with respect to at  
         least one of the test equipments before the testing step  
         is initiated; and
- the magnetic test equipment and the optical image test  
         equipment being located in a same box as the printing  
         device.

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Art Unit: \*\*\*

19. (amended) A printing line, comprising:

a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a continuous web-shape recoding carrier, the information being provided as a data stream from an electronic data source, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical recoding zone and a magnetic recording zone;

an optical image test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to inspect print quality or to recognize printed contents of a document;

a magnetic test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to detect magnetic information printed on the recording carrier;

 a controller which controls a carrier transport unit to transport the recording carrier upon receipt of a test signal to a predetermined position with respect to at least one of the test equipments before [the] a testing [step] is initiated; and

the optical image test equipment and the magnetic test equipment being located in a stand-alone box separate from the printing device.

**20. The printing line according to claim 19 wherein the magnetic test equipment and the optical image test equipment are provided at both sides of the web-shape recording carrier.**



Art Unit: \*\*\*

21. (amended) A printing line, comprising:

a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a continuous web-shape recording carrier, the information being provided as a data stream from an electronic data source, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone;

an optical image test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to inspect print quality or to recognize printed contents of a document;

a magnetic test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to detect magnetic information printed on the recording carrier;

a controller which controls a carrier transport unit to transport the recording carrier upon receipt of a test signal to a predetermined position with respect to at least one of the test equipments before [the] a testing [step] is initiated; and

the optical image test equipment comprises a bar code scanner and a CCD camera and the magnetic test equipment comprise a magnetic image character reader.

Art Unit: \*\*\*

22. A method for printing at least an optical information onto a continuous web-shaped recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least an optical recording zone, comprising the steps of:

printing the optical information by a printing station onto the recording carrier using optical readable toner;

testing by using at least an optical image test equipment for inspection and wherein the optical image test equipment is located in line in the printing line;

inspecting with the optical image test equipment a front and a backside of the recording carrier with respective

optical sensors positioned at the front and the backside of the carrier; and

the optical image test equipment comprises a first video camera at a front side and a second video camera at a backside of the line recording carrier.

23. A testing device for use in a printing line, said printing line having a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a web-shape recording carrier, the carrier having at least one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone, comprising:  
a stand-alone box having contained inside thereof an optical image test equipment for inspecting the optical recording zone and a magnetic test equipment for inspecting the magnetic recording zone.

24. The testing device according to claim 23 wherein the stand-alone box is adapted for mounting at an output path of the printing device but separate from the printing device.

25. The testing device according to claim 23 wherein the stand-alone box is located in line with the printing line.

26. The testing device according to claim 23 wherein the optical image test equipment is located in line with the printing line and is adapted to inspect print quality or to recognize printed contents on the recording carrier, and the magnetic test equipment is located in line with the printing line and is adapted to detect magnetic information printed on the recording carrier.

27. The testing equipment according to claim 23 wherein the stand-alone box contains a bar code reading equipment which reads printed bar code information from the recording carrier.

28. The testing equipment according to claim 23 wherein the stand-alone box contains a CCD camera.

29. The testing equipment according to claim 23 wherein the stand-alone box contains a magnetic ink character recognition reader.

Art Unit: \*\*\*

35 30. The testing equipment according to claim 23 wherein the stand-alone box contains a digital camera, a laser scanner, and a magnetic ink character recognition reader.

31. The testing device according to claim 23 wherein the optical image test equipment and the magnetic test equipment are provided at both opposite sides of the recording carrier in the stand-alone box.

32. A testing device for use in a printing line, said printing line having a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a web-shape recording carrier, the carrier having at least one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone, comprising:  
45 a stand-alone box having contained inside thereof an optical image test equipment for inspecting the optical recording zone and a magnetic test equipment for inspecting the magnetic recording zone; and  
50 the stand-alone box being mounted separate from the printing device but in-line in the printing line.

33. A method for testing in a printing line, comprising the steps of:  
55 providing a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a web-shape recording carrier, the carrier having at least one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone;  
positioning a stand-alone box at a location after and  
60 separate from the printing device and having contained inside thereof an optical image test equipment for inspecting the optical recording zone and a magnetic test equipment for inspecting the magnetic recording zone; and  
65 inspecting at least one of the optical recording zone and the magnetic recording zone with the optical and magnetic test equipment.

Art Unit: \*\*\*

34. The method according to claim 33 including the step of inspecting the at least one of the optical recording zone and the magnetic recording zone in in-line fashion with the printing line.

35. A method for printing at least an optical information onto a continuous web-shaped recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least an optical recording zone, comprising the steps of:

- printing the optical information by a printing station onto the recording carrier using optical readable toner;
- testing by using at least an optical image test equipment for inspection and wherein the optical image test equipment is located in line in the printing line; and
- storing portions of the recording carrier after it has been printed by the printing station in a paper buffer.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein the paper buffer is separate from the printing station.

37. The method of claim 35 wherein the optical image test equipment is located in a stand-alone box in an output path of the printing station but separate from the printing device.

38. The method according to claim 35 including the step of using the test equipment after a print stop of the printing station has been initiated.

39. A system for printing at least an optical information onto a continuous web-shaped recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least an optical recording zone, comprising:

- a printing station for printing optical information onto the recording carrier using optical readable toner;
- an optical image test equipment for inspection, the optical image test equipment being located in line in the printing line; and
- a paper buffer separate from the printing station for storing portions of the recording carrier after it has been printed by the printing station.

40. The system according to claim 39 wherein the optical image test equipment is located in a stand-alone box in an output path of the printing device but separate from the printing station.

41. A method for printing at least an optical information onto a continuous web-shaped recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least an optical recording zone, comprising the steps of:

- printing the optical information by a printing station onto the recording carrier using optical readable toner;
- testing by using at least an optical image test equipment for inspection and wherein the optical image test equipment is located in line in the printing line;
- inspecting with the optical image test equipment a front and a backside of the recording carrier with respective optical sensors positioned at the front and the backside of the carrier; and

the test equipment is used after a print stop of the printing station has been initiated.

Art Unit: \*\*\*

42. A method for printing optical information onto a continuous web-shape recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least an optical recording zone, comprising the steps of:

- printing the optical information by a printing station onto the recording carrier using optical readable toner;
- testing by using an optical image test equipment for inspection, the optical image test equipment being located in line in the printing line; and
- the testing with the optical image test equipment includes the step of sending data into at least one of a flat file and

a data base to store and update the at least one of flat file and data base in a management computer, and to display at least one of status messages and document locations by the computer.

- 5 43. A method according to claim 42 including the step of locating the optical image test equipment in a stand-alone box in an output path of the printing station but separate from the printing device.

- 10 44. A method for printing an optical information onto a continuous web-shape recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least an optical recording zone, comprising the steps of:

- printing the optical information by a printing station onto the recording carrier using optical readable toner;
- 5 testing by using at least an optical image test equipment for inspection, the optical image test equipment being located in line in the printing line; and
- providing said optical image test equipment with a data acquisition system for multi-threaded software capable of reading and passing data sent by a plurality of scanning systems and storing the data into at least one of a flat file and a data base in a form suitable for further processing.

- 15 45. The method according to claim 44 including the step of locating the optical image test equipment in a stand-alone box in an output path of the printing station but separate from the printing device.

- 20 46. A method for printing at least one of optical, bar code, and magnetic information onto a continuous web-shaped recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical, bar code, and magnetic ink recording zone, comprising the steps of:

- printing at least one of the optical, bar code, and magnetic ink information by a printing station onto the recording carrier;
- 5 testing by using at least one of an optical image, bar code, and magnetic ink test equipment for inspection and wherein the at least one of the optical image, bar code, and magnetic ink test equipment is located in line in the printing line; and
- 25 storing portions of the recording carrier after it has been printed by the printing station in a paper buffer.

Art Unit: \*\*\*

47. A method for printing at least one of optical, bar code, and magnetic ink information onto a continuous web-shape recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical, bar code, and magnetic ink recording zone, comprising the steps of:

printing at least one of the optical, bar code, and magnetic ink information by a printing station onto the recording carrier;

testing by using at least one of an optical image, bar code, and magnetic ink test equipment for inspection, at least one of the optical image, bar code, and magnetic ink test equipment being located in line in the printing line; and

the testing with the at least one of the optical image, bar code, and magnetic ink test equipment includes the step of sending data into at least one of a flat file and a data base to store and update the at least one of the flat file and data base in a management computer, and to display at least one of status messages and document locations by the computer.

48. A method for printing at least one of an optical, bar code, and magnetic ink information onto a continuous web-shape recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical, bar code, and magnetic ink recording zone, comprising the steps of:

printing the at least one of the optical, bar code, and magnetic ink information by a printing station onto the recording carrier;

testing by using at least one of an optical image, bar code, and magnetic ink test equipment for inspection, the at least one of the optical image, bar code, and magnetic ink test equipment being located in line in the printing line; and

providing the at least one of the optical image, bar code, and magnetic ink test equipment with a data acquisition system for multi-threaded software capable of reading and passing data sent by a plurality of scanning systems and storing the data into at least one of a flat file and a data base in a form suitable for further processing.

Art Unit: \*\*\*

49. A method for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone, comprising the steps of:

printing the optical information onto the recording carrier using optical readable toner or printing the magnetic information being printed onto the recording carrier using magnetic ink character recognition toner;  
and

testing by using at least one of a magnetic test equipment for inspection and an optical image test equipment for inspection and wherein both the magnetic test equipment and the optical image test equipment are located in the printing line and wherein at least one of the test equipments is used after a print stop has been initiated.

50. The method according to claim 49, wherein at least one of the testings is performed during a print stop.

51. The method according to claim 49 wherein the testing step is controlled by a controller which initiates print stops.

52. The method according to claim 49 wherein bar codes printed on the recording carrier are read by bar code equipment.

53. The method according to claim 52 wherein signals generated by at least one of the magnetic test equipment, the bar code read equipment, and the optical image test equipment are used for document tracking.

54. The method according to claim 49 wherein the recording carrier is transported to a predetermined position with respect to at least one of the magnetic and optical image test equipments before the inspection step is initiated.

55. The method according to claim 54 wherein the predetermined position with respect to at least one of the magnetic and optical image test equipments is a top-of-page position.

Art Unit: \*\*\*

56. The method according to claim 49 including the step of providing the magnetic test equipment and the optical image test equipment in a same box which houses a printing station for at least one of the magnetic information and the optical information.

57. The method according to claim 49 including the step of providing the magnetic test equipment and the optical image test equipment in a stand-alone box separate from a housing containing a printer for at least one of the magnetic information and the optical information.

58. A printing line, comprising  
a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information  
onto a recording carrier, the information being provided as a data



Art Unit: \*\*\*

59. A printing line, comprising:

a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a recording carrier, the information being provided as a data stream from an electronic data source, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone;

an optical image test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to inspect print quality or to recognize printed contents of a document;

a magnetic test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to detect magnetic information printed on the recording carrier;

the test equipments are located at an output path of the printing device; and

the optical image test equipment and the magnetic test equipment being located in a stand-alone box separate from the printing device.

60. A printing line, comprising:

a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a recording carrier, the information being provided as a data stream from an electronic data source, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone;

an optical image test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to inspect print quality or to recognize printed contents of a document;

a magnetic test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to detect magnetic information printed on the recording carrier;

the test equipments are located at an output path of the printing device; and

first and second printing devices being provided and the optical image test equipment and the magnetic test equipment being located in a stand-alone box after the second printing device.

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61. A method for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone, comprising the steps of:

Art Unit: \*\*\*

printing the optical information onto the recording carrier using optical readable toner or printing the magnetic information being printed onto the recording carrier using magnetic ink character recognition toner; and

testing by using at least one of magnetic test equipment for inspection and an optical image test equipment for inspection and wherein both the magnetic test equipment and the optical image test equipment are located in the printing line, and wherein the testing step is controlled by a controller which initiates print stops.

62. The method according to claim 61 wherein the magnetic test equipment and the optical image the equipment are located in a same box as a printing station for at least one of the optical information and the magnetic information.

63. The method according to claim 61 wherein the magnetic test equipment and the optical image test equipment are located in a stand-alone box separate from a printing station for at least one of the optical information and the magnetic information.

64. The method according to claim 61 wherein at least one of the testings is performed during a print stop.

Art Unit: \*\*\*

65. A printing line, comprising:  
a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information  
onto a recording carrier, the information being provided as a data  
stream from an electronic data source, the carrier comprising at least  
one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone;  
an optical image test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing  
line and adapted to inspect print quality or to recognize printed  
contents of a document;  
a magnetic test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line  
and adapted to detect magnetic information printed on the recording  
carrier;  
a character recognition device connected to a document contents verification  
unit which is adapted to compare the information detected by the  
character recognition device with the information provided as a data  
stream from the electronic data source; and  
the optical image test equipment and the magnetic test equipment being  
located in the stand-alone box separate from the printing device.
66. A printing line, comprising:  
a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information  
onto a recording carrier, the information being provided as a data  
stream from an electronic data source, the carrier comprising at least  
one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone;

Art Unit: \*\*\*

an optical image test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to inspect print quality or to recognize printed contents of a document;

a magnetic test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to detect magnetic information printed on the recording carrier;

67. A printing line; comprising:

a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a recording carrier, the information being provided as a data stream from an electronic data source, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone;

an optical image test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line and adapted to inspect print quality or to recognize printed contents of a document;

a magnetic test equipment for inspection located inline with the printing line and adapted to detect magnetic information printed on the recording carrier;

a controller which controls a carrier transport unit to transport the recording carrier upon receipt of a test signal to a predetermined position with respect to at least one of the test equipments before a testing is initiated; and

the optical image test equipment and the magnetic test equipment being located in a stand-alone box separate from the printing device.

68. The printing line according to claim 67 wherein the magnetic test equipment and the optical image test equipment are provided at both sides of the web-shape recording carrier.

Art Unit: \*\*\*

69. A printing line, comprising:  
a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information  
onto a recording carrier, the information being provided as a data  
stream from an electronic data source, the carrier comprising at least  
one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone;  
an optical image test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing  
line and adapted to inspect print quality or to recognize printed  
contents of a document;  
a magnetic test equipment for inspection located in line with the printing line  
and adapted to detector magnetic information printed on the recording  
carrier;  
a controller which controls a carrier transport unit to transport the recording  
carrier upon receipt of a test signal to a predetermined position with  
respect to at least one of the test equipments before a testing is  
initiated; and  
the optical image test equipment comprises a bar code scanner and a CCD  
camera and the magnetic test equipment comprises a magnetic image  
character reader.

Art Unit: \*\*\*

70. A method for printing at least an optical information onto a recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least an optical recording zone, comprising the steps of:

printing the optical information by a printing station onto the recording carrier using optical readable toner;

testing by using at least an optical image test equipment for inspection and wherein the optical image test equipment is located in line in the printing line;

inspecting with the optical image test equipment a front and a backside of the recording carrier with respective optical sensors positioned at the front and the backside of the carrier; and

the optical image test equipment comprises a first video camera at a front side and a second video camera at a backside of the line recording carrier.

71. A testing device for use in a printing line, said printing line having a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a recording carrier, the carrier having at least one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone, comprising:

a stand-alone box having contained inside thereof an optical image test equipment for inspecting the optical recording zone and a magnetic test equipment for inspecting the magnetic recording zone.

72. The testing device according to claim 71 wherein the stand-alone box is adapted for mounting at an output path of the printing device but separate from the printing device.

73. The testing device according to claim 71 wherein the stand-alone box is located in line with the printing line.

74. The testing device according to claim 71 wherein the optical image test equipment is located in line with the printing line and is adapted to inspect print quality or to recognize printed contents on the recording carrier, and the magnetic test equipment is located in line with the printing line and is adapted to detect magnetic information printed on the recording carrier.

75. The testing equipment according to claim 71 wherein the stand-alone box contains a bar code reading equipment which reads printed bar code information from the recording carrier.

76. The testing equipment according to claim 71 wherein the stand-alone box contains a CCD camera.

77. The testing equipment according to claim 71 wherein the stand-alone box contains a magnetic ink character recognition reader.

Art Unit: \*\*\*

78. The testing equipment according to claim 71 wherein the stand-alone box contains a digital camera, a laser scanner, and a magnetic ink character recognition reader.

79. The testing device according to claim 71 wherein the optical image test equipment and the magnetic test equipment are provided at both opposite sides of the recording carrier in the stand-alone box.

80. A testing device for use in a printing line, said printing line having a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a recording carrier, the carrier having at least one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone, comprising:

a stand-alone box having contained inside thereof an optical image test equipment for inspecting the optical recording zone and a magnetic test equipment for inspecting the magnetic recording zone; and  
the stand-alone box being mounted separate from the printing device but in-line in the printing line.

81. A method for testing in a printing line, comprising the steps of:  
providing a printing device for printing at least one of optical and magnetic information onto a recording carrier, the carrier having at least one of an optical recording zone and a magnetic recording zone;  
positioning a stand-alone box at a location after and separate from the printing device and having contained inside thereof an optical image test equipment for inspecting the optical recording zone and a magnetic test equipment for inspecting the magnetic recording zone; and  
inspecting at least one of the optical recording zone and the magnetic recording zone with the optical and magnetic test equipment.

82. The method according to claim 81 including the step of inspecting the at least one of the optical recording zone and the magnetic recording zone in in-line fashion with the printing line.

Art Unit: \*\*\*

83. A method for printing at least an optical information onto a recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least an optical recording zone, comprising the steps of:

printing the optical information by a printing station onto the recording carrier using optical readable toner;

testing by using at least an optical image test equipment for inspection and wherein the optical image test equipment is located in line in the printing line; and

storing portions of the recording carrier after it has been printed by the printing station in a paper buffer.

84. The method of claim 83 wherein the paper buffer is separate from the printing station.

85. The method of claim 83 wherein the optical image test equipment is located in a stand-alone box in an output path of the printing station but separate from the printing device.

86. The method according to claim 83 including the step of using the test equipment after a print stop of the printing station has been initiated.

87. A system for printing at least an optical information onto a recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least an optical recording zone, comprising:

a printing station for printing optical information onto the recording carrier using optical readable toner;

an optical image test equipment for inspection, the optical image test equipment being located in line in the printing line; and

a paper buffer separate from the printing station for storing portions of the recording carrier after it has been printed by the printing station.

88. The system according to claim 87 wherein the optical image test equipment is located in a stand-alone box in an output path of the printing device but separate from the printing station.



Art Unit: \*\*\*

89. A method for printing at least an optical information onto a recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least an optical recording zone, comprising the steps of:

printing the optical information by a printing station onto the recording carrier using optical readable toner;

testing by using at least an optical image test equipment for inspection and wherein the optical image test equipment is located in line in the printing line;

inspecting with the optical image test equipment a front and a backside of the recording carrier with respective optical sensors positioned at the front and the backside of the carrier; and

the test equipment is used after a print stop of the printing station has been initiated.

90. A method for printing optical information onto a recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least an optical recording zone, comprising the steps of:

printing the optical information by a printing station onto the recording carrier using optical readable toner;

testing by using an optical image test equipment for inspection, the optical image test equipment being located in line in the printing line; and

the testing with the optical image test equipment includes the step of sending data into at least one of a flat file and a data base to store and update the at least one of flat file and data base in a management computer, and to display at least one of status messages and document location by the computer.

Art Unit: \*\*\*

91. A method according to claim 90 including the step of locating the optical image test equipment in a stand-alone box in an output path of the printing station but separate from the printing device.

92. A method for printing an optical information onto a recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least an optical recording zone, comprising the steps of:

printing the optical information by a printing station onto the recording carrier using optical readable toner;

testing by using at least an optical image test equipment for inspection, the optical image test equipment being located in line in the printing line; and

providing said optical image test equipment with a data acquisition system for multi-threaded software capable of reading and passing data sent by a plurality of scanning systems and storing the data into at least one of a flat file and a data base in a form suitable for further processing.

93. The method according to claim 92 including the step of locating the optical image test equipment in a stand-alone box in an output path of the printing station but separate from the printing device.

94. A method for printing at least one of optical, bar code, and magnetic information onto a recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical, bar code, and magnetic ink recording zone, comprising the steps of:

printing at least one of the optical, bar code, and magnetic ink information by a printing station onto the recording carrier;

testing by using at least one of an optical image, bar code, and magnetic ink test equipment for inspection and wherein the at least one of the optical image, bar code, and magnetic ink test equipment is located in line in the printing line; and

storing portions of the recording carrier after it has been printed by the printing station in a paper buffer.

Art Unit: \*\*\*

95. A method for printing at least one of optical, bar code, and magnetic ink information onto a recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical, bar code, and magnetic ink recording zone, comprising the steps of:

printing at least one of the optical, bar code, and magnetic ink information by a printing station onto the recording carrier;

testing by using at least one of an optical image, bar code, and magnetic ink test equipment for inspection, at least one of the optical image, bar code, and magnetic ink test equipment being located in line in the printing line; and

the testing with the at least one of the optical image, bar code, and magnetic ink test equipment includes the step of sending data into at least one of

a flat file and a data base to store and update the at least one of the flat file and data base in a management computer, and to display at least one of status messages and document locations by the computer.

96. A method for printing at least one of an optical, bar code, and magnetic ink information onto a recording carrier in a printing line, the carrier comprising at least one of an optical, bar code, and magnetic ink recording zone, comprising the steps of:

printing the at least one of the optical, bar code, and magnetic ink information by a printing station onto the recording carrier;

testing by using at least one of an optical image, bar code, and magnetic ink test equipment for inspection, the at least one of the optical image, bar code, and magnetic ink test equipment being located in line in the printing line; and

providing the at least one of the optical image, bar code, and magnetic ink test equipment with a data acquisition system for multi-threaded software capable of reading and passing data sent by a plurality of scanning systems and storing the data into at least one of a flat file and a data base in a form suitable for further processing.